

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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No Room for The King of Kings

From the hills of old Judea
Comes a story old but true,
Echoed from the angels' chorus—
The refrain is ever new.
Glory, glory in the highest,
Unto you is born this day,
Christ, the Saviour and Redeemer,
Sent to lighten up the way.
Prophets hailed the Saviour's coming—
Unto you a Child is born,
Peace proclaim to every nation,
To the weary, sad, and worn.
Give Him room in every nation,
Clear the way, from sin depart,
Greet your King with admiration,
Make Him room within your heart.
Note how Bethlehem, Judea,
Gives the answer merged with gloom,
"Sorry, but this place is crowded;
In this inn there is no room."
Many hearts reflect the image
Of that scene so long ago;
With the door of mercy opened,
There's no room within the soul.
Crowded thoughts of vain ambition
Soon will prove in time erase
All the lovely, pure, and holy—
Leave no room for Heaven's Grace.
Sinner friend, prepare to meet Him,
Debts to Him will soon be due;
If you have no room for Jesus,
He will have no room for you.
Sacrifice your sinful pleasures,
Claim your sacred diadem,
Sing the royal proclamation,
"I have made my room for Him."

—Donald Sharp

Three Prophecies Fulfilled



In the cool gray of early morning, Heli (abbreviation for Heliachim, or same as Joachim) might have slipped a few dinars into Joseph's hand. "For the little one," he may have said as he watched Joseph lift Mary and gently set her on the donkey.

Heli and Hannah (or Anna) may have stood in their doorway and watched the diminishing forms of Joseph, Mary and the donkey as they went south toward Bethlehem. Hannah probably cried. According to Jewish custom, it was her place as Mary's mother to assist in the delivery and care of her daughter's child. Now she would be denied this privilege and Joseph would be there. That would be contrary to Jewish custom which did not allow any man to be present during travail.

Though denied a traditional wedding feast, Mary's parents must have been thankful Joseph did not have her stoned as the Jewish law gave him the right to do. They probably knew as well as Joseph that the engagement had been properly conducted. Mary had been faithful.

As loving parents, Heli and Hannah may have known the great secret which their daughter, Mary, carried. However, for her safety they would not have told any one. They knew of the cruel raids Herod ordered when there was any dispute against his authority. Herod had already ordered some zealots burned who claimed to be a Messiah and deliverer of the Jews. Herod even killed members of his family because a rumor reached him that they were conspiring against him. Telling Mary's secret to clear her reputation would not be worth jeopardizing her life and the child's. Everything would be kept quiet and pondered in the heart.

Traveling four days through old towns of Nain, Sunem, and Jezreel, across boggy plains of Esdraelon, and through Jordan's valley, avoiding hostile Samaria, then passing through Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary must have welcomed the sight of productive almond and olive orchards which outskirt the walls of Bethlehem. To the southeast they could see Herodium, Herod's magnificent palace. Herod had proclaimed three sons his successors and in honor of them the decree of taxation was made. More palaces of grandeur were to be built for the royalty. Now poor commoners were surging against the gates of Israel's towns and cities, waiting to be numbered and taxed.

Bethlehem, meaning the "House of Bread", is the burying place of Rachel, the home of Ruth, and the birthplace of King David. When a humble shepherd boy, David had slain a lion and a bear in these hills and twelve miles west in Socoh, David had slain Goliath. Tonight Bethlehem would cradle another King, a conqueror over sin and death, the Lion of Judah.

"But thou Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old from everlasting." No one quite knew the depths of this prophecy yet. They were expecting a mighty man of royalty to overcome the Romans and the harsh Herods. But salvation to all men came in the heartbeat, flesh and blood of an infant born in the ancient "House of Bread."

Born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14) of David's family (Isa. 9:6, 7) in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), Jesus Christ fulfilled three prophecies at birth. The Father up in Heaven had all things ready for His Son. That sacred night when Mary and Joseph first beheld the Messiah, they had no quick way of communicating back to Heli and Hannah that it was a boy and all was well, but the true Father in Heaven had His angels herald the joyous tidings to plain shepherds in the Jericho hills. Common shepherds such as little David knew of the Saviour's birth first. The bright star that shone in Bethlehem truly was the light of the world. —Sis. Connie Sorrell

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Despite the objection to the thought and celebration of Christmas and the disapproval of the saints with the way the world carries on at this time of year, let us not discredit the real and true meaning of the birth of Christ. There is no wrong in letting one's mind dwell on this thought on a special day, but rather there is much good.

—Leslie Busbee

The Christ Child

During the Christmas season we have become so accustomed to hearing the traditional verses being quoted in the second chapter of Luke about Christ's birth that we tend to overlook just what is the significance of His being born the Son of God.

If we start reading Scriptures in Luke 1:26-35, we see that Christ is the Son of God. "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that are highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."

As we continue reading in the fourth chapter of Galatians we learn that we can become the sons of God, too. God gave his only begotten Son that through him, we might receive the adoption of sons by being born again. "Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." Galatians 4:3-7.

Praise the Lord, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" that we can become his sons, too, through adoption and receive our inheritance, everlasting life! We are no longer under bondage to the law or a slave to sin. "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ

Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death", Romans 8:2.

The Scriptures also tell us who are the sons of God. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the **sons of God**. For ye have not received the Spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the **children of God**: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." Romans 8:14-17.

Only those who have the Spirit of God dwelling in them and are led by His Spirit are the legitimate sons or children of God. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the **children of God**:", Romans 8:16.

At Christmas time let us fully realize the importance of the birth of the Christ Child, the only begotten Son of God that was sent into this world that we can become His sons, too, through adoption and receive all the blessings and the inheritance that He has promised His children.

—Joyce Hall

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Thoughts for Meditation

Nothing can ever fully satisfy us in the Christian life but a pure heart filled with the Holy Spirit.

This is the normal state of every saint. To think that we could make a success of life with anything below this standard would only mean a failure.

We obtain this experience by obedience and faith, and we retain it in the same way. We also must tell it to keep it, and we must keep it to tell it, and both are a delight to the soul.

The outward pressure is too strong for us without the greater one within. John says, "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world," which applies to the heart that is pure and filled with the Holy Spirit.

When this is our condition we can withstand every outward pressure of the enemy, and, best of all, there is nothing within that has any correspondence or communion with the outside, but there is within us the strong repelling power which makes the trial and temptation easy to resist.

Oh, what boundless love God has shown that we may, by His grace, have a pure heart! The desires for sin are all completely destroyed, and the Holy One is enthroned to hold sway over the whole realm of our nature.

Even though the enemy may come in like a flood, we have the blessed assurance that the

Spirit of the Lord will lift up the standard against him (margin, put him to flight), therefore there is no need of our being overcome in the time of testing.

When every desire for sin is taken away, it is not hard to keep from sinning. Not only is the desire gone, but we hate sin. We abhor that which is evil, and in this condition we have the perfect victory over all the temptations to sin.

By keeping a good watch of the self life, we shall have no trouble with being overcome. Our humanity is the point of contact with the outside world, and when this is kept humbled under the mighty hand of God, we are safe. Self-humiliation is the safeguard against the attacks of the enemy.

Grace is promised to the humble, but God resists the proud. The error of taking honor to one's self is where the enemy gets the advantage of many.

With a pure heart and a constant supply of humility, we are in a comfortable and safe place.

The sanctifying grace does not destroy the natural self, but it purifies it by destroying the depravity and restoring the natural into the state where man stood before the fall. Unless we keep the right attitude toward self, the enemy will impose his devices upon us and cause us to sin as he did Adam.

In the grace of God we have the decided advantage over Adam, for now we have the Holy Spirit within, which, if we do our part by keeping the will yielded to God, will put to flight every evil thought produced by the enemy.

—Selected from *The Gospel Trumpet* April, 1911

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A Christian Life



A Christian life, have you ever thought
How much is in that name?

A life like Christ, and all He taught
We must follow, to be the same.

How little of ease the Saviour knew
With His life of labor and love!
And if we would walk in His footsteps too,
We must look not to earth, but above.

The darkest hour the Christian knows
Is just before the dawn;
For as the night draws to its close,
It will bring in the morn.

So if you trust, though shadows fall,
And dark your pathway be,
The light, which shines from heaven for all,
Will surely fall on thee. —Selected

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Maybelle Pruitt, Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660).

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 30¢ to notify us of each change of address.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14, 15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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EDITORIALS



Special Subscription Offer...
Ten names, 1 year for \$5.00.

Inserted in this month's *Faith and Victory* is an envelope containing a special subscription offer to residents of the U.S. The envelope provides space to write the names and addresses of ten people to whom you wish to send the *Faith and Victory* paper. Please write legibly, detach your list on the perforated line, fold and insert into envelope and mail it along with your remittance.

Extra subscription envelopes are available here at the office for those who request them.

We are offering a premium for every completed envelope returned. In the near future we plan to print the book, *Paula the Waldensian*. This inspirational book will be of interest to all ages. It is a true story of an orphaned Christian girl who leaves her hometown to live with an uncle and his family. The uncle is much opposed to even the mention of God and gives Paula much trouble. The book contains 175 pages and is bound in a heavy paper cover.

This subscription offer is made possible by the free will offerings of the Church of God and those who have supported the gospel printing work. This is your opportunity to be a missionary, fulfilling your part of the great commission to carry the "good news" to the whole world.

Send in the names as soon as possible.

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Bound volumes of the eleven issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year 1986 will soon be available. The price is \$1.00 per book, plus 70¢ for postage and handling. We are accepting orders now.

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We have in stock 1987 wall calendars. Each calendar measures 7¼ by 13½ inches, and includes a colorful nature scene for each month. The price is \$1.50 each plus 75¢ for postage and handling. These calendars make excellent gifts.

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As this year nears its close we thank each of you who have assisted with the printing work throughout the year. We are glad to report that things are running smoothly and we look for-

ward with anticipation to the new year of 1987.
We covet your prayers continually.

—Wayne Murphey

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We pray for every one of you and ask the Lord to bless and give you a wonderful and blessed Christmas and may the New Year be filled with many blessings and healings.

—Maybelle Pruitt

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Partial List of Items Available

Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. An instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in the grace of sanctification. 128 pages in paper cover. Price, \$1.00 per copy.

Beyond the Tomb by H. M. Riggle. This excellent book of 288 pages deals with man, his present and future, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$4.00.

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Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr in the German language. It consists of 127 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

Tim and His Lamp re-written by Fern Stubblefield. This excellent booklet of 52 pages for children and young people is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 40¢ each, or 3 copies for \$1.00.

Harry the Newsboy and Other Stories by Isabel Byrum. 32 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, 35¢ each, or 3 copies for \$1.00.

Heart Talks by C. W. Naylor. Consists of 59 chapters with a different subject treated in each chapter. It contains 280 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50 each.

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The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D. O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

The Battle of Armageddon by O. B. Wilson. A clear exposition of this much misunderstood subject in an enlarged 24-page booklet by the author. Price, 20¢ each, or 6 copies for \$1.00.

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Life's Golden Gleanings by Ruby E. Stover. She records many experiences of her childhood, and how God answered prayer in marvelous ways in her family and through the years in the gospel work. 94 pages in a nice paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24-page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 25¢ each, or 5 copies for \$1.00.

Life's Story and Healings by Nellie Poulos. This is a reprint of her first book, plus additional material. This volume contains 160 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

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Memoirs of George E. Harmon, sponsored by Vera M. Forbes. This is a brief autobiography of our beloved Bro. George Harmon, a long-time minister in the Church of God, including the record of the memories of a few others who knew him. It will inspire your faith in God. Its 56 pages with four pictures are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 60¢ each, or 2 copies for \$1.00.

A Saloonkeeper's Daughter Saved was written by Bertha Mackey. This 16-page pamphlet is an inspiring true story. Price, 15¢ each, or 7 copies for \$1.00.

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MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

HOLLY HILL, SC MEETING REPORT

On October 19 through 26, we had a wonderful meeting. God greatly blessed. Souls were saved and some sought the Holy Spirit. Others were helped in deeper grace. Some sought help for their bodies and God did wonderfully bless them.

We do appreciate Bro. Carl Shaffer and Sister Shaffer and Bro. Williams for coming and helping us. We are still like St. Luke 13:24, striving to enter in.

Yours in Christ,

—Utson Platt

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CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting will convene, Lord willing, December 26, 1986 and continue through January 4, 1987. The campgrounds are located at 12312 Osborne Place,

Pacoima, Calif. 91331. Phone: (818) 899-9021. Accommodations will be provided for all who attend. All who can should furnish their own bedding. The expense of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

The Lord has richly blessed in the past meetings and has never failed to send His Word with rich anointing and power. We are confident that all who come expecting a blessing in humble readiness for it will not be disappointed. We urge every saint of God to make special effort to support the meeting in attendance and particularly in prayer.

For further information, please contact Bro. Robert Sherman, 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA 91331. Phone: (818) 896-7593, or Bro. James Pierro, 11316 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, CA 91331. Phone: (818) 896-5331, or Bro. James Kutra, 139 W. Green St., Claremont, CA 91711. Phone: (714) 626-4267. —Jim Kutra

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OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 80th annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, OK, beginning December 26, 1986, and continuing through January 4, 1987. A hearty invitation is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people.

The chapel is located on the corner of 6th and W. Warner Ave. The dining hall and dormitories are located in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for.

We are praying for and expecting the Lord to send Holy Spirit-filled ministers to preach the Word of God and to help anyone to present their spiritual and physical needs to the One who came to heal the broken-hearted and to set the captives free from sin. Saints, come praying with a burden for those in need of spiritual and physical help. These are critical days in the world's onward march to eternity, so let us labor faithfully while "it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work."

The expense of the meeting will be met by free-will offerings. All contributions for the meeting should be sent directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, Route 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044. For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Leslie C. Busbee, at 417 N. 11th St., Guthrie, OK 73044. Phone (405) 282-2421. The chapel number is (405) 282-5499.

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There is this difference between happiness and wisdom; he that thinks himself the happiest man really is so; but he that thinks himself the wisest, is generally the greatest fool.

—Colton

From the Mailbox . . .

Ca—Dear Saints: I greet you all in Jesus' name, our great Father, King of kings, and Lord of lords. This name holds all the power in heaven and earth. Praise the dear Lord.

The dear Lord has blessed in our home and prayers have been answered. We have had some difficult situations and He has stood by us and taken care of them all. Praise the dear Lord. He is still on the throne and we in the family of God all know it . . .

Christian love,

—Sis. Lois and Bro. Harold Underwood

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OK—Dear Ones at the Print Shop: "This is the day which the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24.

We have had many wonderful days this year and are thankful to the Lord for all His goodness to us. Here of late there has been a lot of flooding, causing much hurt to people's homes, cattle and crops, yet we need to toil on, keep encouraged, be faithful and true until the end.

Pray for us and all of our unsaved loved ones. We trust they will soon turn from their sinful desires, see their lost condition, and live for the dear Lord.

Yours in Christ,

—Alfred and Martha Classen

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From Joseph Harp Correctional Center—

Dear Saints, at the Print Shop and abroad: The Guthrie and Sapulpa congregations joined forces to come and help us fight the devil! Brothers and sisters are allowed to attend chapel here now. Bless the Lord! Thereby, a "balanced" harmony is accomplished in singing, also in exhortation and testimony.

I won't attempt to list every name. But please let me thank **everyone** who came, and the others that are supporting this area of work.

Many may not be aware of the "fertile fields" of jails and prisons. The truth is, many prisoners are thinking seriously for the FIRST time in their lives. Let us therefore seek to bring these men into the realization of Jesus Christ!

Please pray for me that I will always conduct myself according to God's will.

I'll close for now. Keep up the good work!

Yours in Him, —Bro. Elbert Johnson

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TN—Greetings to the Saints at the Print Shop and around the world: I thank God for His great love and mercy to save me and put me in

His Church. I want to thank the saints at the Print Shop for the *Faith and Victory* paper. It has been a blessing these last three years to me. I want to keep it coming one more year.

I want you all to pray for me and my family.

—Willis McLemore

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AR—Dear Ones at the Print Shop: Just a few lines to say Hello, and to thank the dear Lord for His wonderful love and mercy to all of us. We are both still able to be up and around. Thank the Lord for salvation and peace of mind.

November 9th we will be having our 60th wedding anniversary. Please pray for both of us. Dad hasn't felt well for a long time. Please pray that we both will make it in.

—Sis. Johnnie West

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OK—Dear Faithful Laborers there: I am happy to receive the *Faith and Victory*. It is so precious to me. I read again and again things in it. May the Lord bless you all is my prayer.

Yes, I am happy and thankful for the prayers of the Saints. The Lord is our helper. I am reading the words of Jesus in St. Mark 11:22, "Have faith in God." It is also precious to study verses 23, 24. Verses 25, 26, "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any; that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." Amen. Pray for us in Jesus' name.

—Sis. Eva Penner

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OK—I send greetings to the Print Shop in the name of the Lord Jesus, our only Saviour: I am thankful to have the chance to help a little in getting the Word out to the people. I pray for God's will to be done. I am sure the Lord is pleased about me making a small donation to help His Word be published and sent out where people can have a chance to get acquainted with the dear Lord, our wonderful Saviour.

May the Lord bless us all.

A brother in the Lord,—Frank W. Knight

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OH—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I wanted to write and renew my subscription and add a name to the mailing list. This letter finds me well and encouraged and pressing the battle on for the Lord. It is wonderful how the Lord is keeping His people in this time of evil. The Lord is sure longsuffering with souls. Lord help us to be longsuffering too. I used to think when I was a little girl that

when a person had been saved a long time that staying saved was easier, but I have found out different. Old Satan doesn't give up until you have taken your last breath, so we need to be on guard at all times. I do not doubt God's saving and keeping grace. Thank the Lord. Be encouraged and pray for us.

Your sister in the Lord, —Carol Addis

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

AR—Dear Christian Friends: It is so good to be in a big family. All are saints in this large family. There is no sin, out-laws, or filthy people; just lots of love. We are bought with a price and it is such a great privilege to serve and trust a God so great and mighty in power.

I want to love and trust Him more and see more prayers answered. There are so many lost souls calling out for H-E-L-P. I pray, "God help me help some one."

Our work here is progressing. There were about 30 out to church today. Others had a desire to be in service but weren't able in body.

Our love to all of you, —Sis. Bray

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Karikkom, India—I was born and raised in a Hindu family. In my childhood my parents took me to several Hindu temples to worship many kinds of idols. I continued that idol worship till the age of 28. I have conducted pilgrimages to several Hindu holy hills and rivers to please god. At the same time I was a chain smoker and a hippie. I spent most of my times in cinema theatres and such worse places.

I obtained a good education also. While I was studying in college for my Bachelor of Arts degree, my father died as a drunkard. That was a real shock to me. In the year 1967 I finished my education and got a job as teacher in a school near to my home. Bro. John Varghese was also a teacher in the same school. In the leisure times in the school, he used to talk about the evil consequences of smoking, cinema, etc. His humble and simple way of life attracted me very much.

Bro. Varghese supplied me a Holy Bible one day and he persuaded me to read it in the home. Unwillingly I received it and started to read it in the home. As I went on reading the Bible I felt something attracting me and I felt the love of God to humanity. In 1968 Brother Varghese's father expired suddenly and hence he left his job in the school to serve the Lord as full time servant, following the footprints of his father.

Till 1978 we did not get any chance to meet again. In 1978 quite unexpectedly we happened to meet again and by this time that Bible has

made many changes in me. I said farewell to smoking and cinema. I cut my long hair. Bro. Varghese talked to me about the love of Jesus and I received Christ as my personal Savior.

In January of 1979 Bro. Varghese baptized me and now I am a happy child of God in His Church. The following year my wife also got saved and baptized. My mother is still a Hindu and we pray for her salvation. I have two children and they learn Bible in the Karikkom Sunday school. My wife also is a school teacher. We like living a holy life and being a living witness for Christ.

We request your prayers,—C. Nityanandan

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

KS—To the saints at Faith Publishing House: May God bless you all as we are almost to Thanksgiving Time again. Thank God for His love and promises.

Keep up the good work. I do love to get the *Faith and Victory*. It is so encouraging and spiritual.

Brotherly love to all, —C. M. Waller

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—May I share some of my thoughts on this day, 10/27/1986, with you? Dear Lord, thank you for this beautiful day! Winter is just around the corner and we cannot look forward to many more pretty, sunny days like this to get our outside work done.

I know you have been talking to me Lord for months, how I needed to write a testimony, and You know I had good intentions, but You also saw how badly I needed to use up this paint, especially before our company came. The jobs just continue to crop up, so this a.m. I shall endeavor to get my materials together and put my thoughts into words. Let's see, I need the typewriter in here by the fire and will probably use the dictionary and the concordance since I am so out of practice. (I didn't realize how much so until now. It seems this typewriter isn't cooperating.) This won't be perfect, but if I wait for perfection I'll never make it. Is that one of the devil's tactics to get us to put off doing things for you?

You have been so good to us, we owe you so much! A little of our time is the least we can do.

Since You have blessed us to continue on with our daily activities, we want to share with others just what you did do! The day after Christmas 1985, as we have done for most of the past 35 years, we attended the Thursday fast and prayer service in Guthrie. Louie felt a little dizzy, but we sat through the good service, unaware that "the silent killer" was stalking

near. The Lord was near too, pouring out His blessings as Louie went forward to be anointed and prayed for. Although we declined the offer of friends to accompany us home, we surely appreciated their concern and coming anyway to help in getting up the stairs at the house, also all the prayers, etc. Your children are so dear.

You were so good to not let him suffer through the whole ordeal. We observe others who have suffered strokes and see you did lessen the effects. Louie has really been blessed with a lot of determination, faith, and energy. He has worked pretty steady and long hours this fall, doing what he could to help gather in the crops.

Do you know what this reminds me of dear Lord? Of course you do, for you were the one that gave me these thoughts. SIN is like the stroke. It is a silent killer! People are succumbing to it. It is gradually taking its toll on their very lives and soul's welfare. Sin creeps in stealthily, yes, unnoticed sometimes, just as this stroke crept upon Louie's body. Oh, how deceitful sin is. "Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to me with all your heart and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness. . ." Joel 2:12-13.

In conclusion, dear Lord, please help each of us to not be laggard about the most important things in life, but may we do your will first, then we can count on You to help us get the necessary things done. Yes, I do have the rest of the day to paint outside. Thank You. And such a lovely day!

—Evodna Marler

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

OK—Several months ago I requested prayer for Almeta Hood with lung cancer. The Lord is healing her. She is almost completely well. Praise the Lord. Please pray for JoAnn Harrison and Ruth Harrison they each have a leg that swells.

Thank you,

—Ben Harrison

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Sister Pruitt: I am writing this letter to say "thank you" to you and all of the saints who prayed for me recently when I was so very sick. God answered your prayers and is helping me to get well.

I guess I should introduce myself. I am Sister Ada Leach's daughter, Joyce Cardoza, from Mt. Shasta, CA. I recently had a five bypass open heart surgery, and according to my family, became very ill. Because of our very

dear mother's teachings we always look to God for help. Since Mama is no longer with us, we look to her dearest and best friend, Sister Letha Reece, a very special lady, and also Sister Loretta (Miles) Harmon of Orland, CA. With their prayers and all of those of you who prayed for me, God answered your prayers and helped as He has done so many times in my life.

As far back as I can remember, Mama always had a little hankie that she sent for it was an anointed one. It was soiled and yellowed with age, but when one of us got sick she would bring it out and lay it on us and pray. I can remember it always helped us.

I would like to take this time to thank God for giving me a very wonderful Christian mother. I loved her and miss her very much. We don't have her anymore, but we still have a very dear lady who we call our adopted mom, Letha Reece. She is always there to help us when we need her, I can understand why she was Mama's dearest friend.

Again I would like to say "thank you" to all of you for being there when I needed you so very much.

Yours with love,

—Joyce Cardoza

—————o—————

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

Oct. 20—Our dearly beloved elder sister Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey, other dear ones in the Print Shop and the beloved saints scattered abroad: Greetings to you all again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

We had a very blessed revival meeting at Nadukkunnu last week.

Lord willing, our 21st General convention is scheduled to be conducted the 3rd week of January, 1987. I wish some of the saints from America would be able to come over to India to Participate in this convention. It would be an encouragement for the Church here. It is our earnest desire that the saints from America could attend our convention every year.

Please remember our many needs in your valuable prayers; especially our new works in Tamil Nadu. The printing of Evening Light Song books in the Malayalam language is going on.

With love and prayers, —John Varghese

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From the Philippines . . .

Nov. 1—Dear loved ones in the Lord: Greetings of peace and joy to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Let us praise Him for

His goodness towards us. Amen.

It has been a long time since our last communication, yet all is well on our end because we know that the Lord is on our side. Though trials and tribulations may come our way, He tides us over them.

There is such a touch of sadness to let you know that Pastor Ilde Detuya had been called home by our Creator.

Christ is coming soon. There is a falling away, but I have determined to work with them who have laid their lives on the line for the Lord. We are praying that God will help us to see the Church keep going on.

May God bless and keep you all, giving you the health and strength to let you go on with your work, is our prayer. Please pray for me that through my efforts in working for the Lord I will grow and see more souls saved until His coming.

Love and prayers in the Lord's service,
—Sister Detuya and flock of believers

Prayer Requests

OH—"My brother and I need special prayer for healing." —Essie Abbott

WV—"An 84-year-old sister in Christ is real sick and asks for prayer." —Gladys Morgan

OR—"Pray for my body." —Mary Jones

OK—"Do remember me in your prayers."

—Mary A. Brown

ID—"Sis. Ruby Marken's sister, Wilma Harris, needs a healing touch from God.

AR—"I have some unspoken requests. Please pray." —Vera Dotson

OK—"Please pray for JoAnn and Ruth Harrison. They both need healing."

—Ben Harrison

OK—"Sis. Lottie Porter needs special help in her body.

NY—"Pray for me, I have cataracts on my eyes." —Mae E. Smith

WV—"Sis. Earl Tinsley needs special prayer for healing.

OK—"Bro. Steve Cable had a stroke and needs prayer.

LA—"Continue to remember Bro. Nathan Carver.

OK—"Continue to remember Sister Myrtle Souder in prayer for healing.

If in getting the things of the world we get only the things, then we abuse them. In everything of the world we get there is something that will help us to be more heavenly if we use it rightly.

In Memorial

Mary Rogers, 72, of Neosho, Mo., died Friday, Aug. 29, 1986. She was the widow of L. C. Rogers. Survivors include three daughters, Wanda Paterson, Barbara Kilgore, Lupton City, TN, and Peggy Kilgore, California; three sons, Kenneth Rogers, Marietta, GA., Larry Rogers, Little Rock, Ark. and James Rogers, Signal Mountain, Tenn.; five sisters, Hallie Taylor, Fayette, AL., Pearlene Gerald, Jasper, AL., Mellie Earnest, Winfield, AL., Lennie Brown and Leora Frink, both of Birmingham, AL; three brothers, James McMillian, Birmingham, AL, Vada McMillian and Austin McMillian, both of Neosho, MO; 20 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Funeral services were held with the officiating ministers being Bob Forbes and Ralph Barker. Burial was in Jasper, Tenn.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mentie Nurse was born May 13, 1903 to Hamp and Rachel Burleson in Alto, Texas.

When she was a girl, twelve years old, she confessed a hope in Christ and was baptized in the Baptist church.

In later years, the family moved to Oklahoma where she met the Saints and was born into the Church of God. She was a faithful worker and a loving person.

She met and married Lodious A. Gibbs, Sr., and to this union three children were born: Harold, Pauline and Lodious A., Jr. Lodious A., Jr. preceded her in death.

In later years she met and married William Nurse. He also preceded her in death.

She was called home on Saturday, September 18, 1986. She leaves to cherish her memory one son, Harold Gibbs of Tulsa; one daughter, Pauline Atkins of Coweta; one stepson, Cecil Nurse of Tulsa; grandchildren and a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted in the Church of God Chapel, Tulsa, OK, on September 19, 1986, by Bro. Charles Lowe. Interment was in the Crown Hill Cemetery.

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Erma Gay Clevenger was born July 25, 1908, and passed into her eternal home on Nov. 3, 1986. Another one of God's precious saints has gained her crown.

Forty some years ago Bro. Fred Pruitt and a company of saints went to Jumbo, W.V. for a meeting. Sis. Clevenger found the Lord, and met the saints for the first time. All these years she

never forgot that meeting. She lived a godly life under adverse conditions. The Lord was faithful to her to the end.

She leaves behind her faithful husband, Bro. Cecil Clevenger, six sons, three daughters, 32 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Bro. and Sis. Clevenger have been faithful to the congregation at Green Bank and will be missed.

Services were conducted by Brother Mart Samons at Webster Springs, West Virginia.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all saints involved in love, prayers, and support in the recent illness and death of our grandma, Erma Gay Clevenger.

With love,

—The Clevenger Family Grandchildren

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: What is the meaning of First Corinthians 11:1-16?

Answer: I will not here insert the full text of this passage for the sake of space; but I will suggest that each reader open your Bible to this place and read the entire passage for the purpose of obtaining good, clear knowledge of what it says before reading these comments. However, I will be inserting key and guiding verses as I proceed to construct my comments.

First, we must realize and recognize that there were a number of irregularities both in their collective worship and also in their personal and private lives in this church at Corinth. The reason for this was a brand new church freshly converted from heathenism and a number of their heathen customs and practices were still with them. Much of this First Corinthian epistle is an endeavor by the Apostle Paul to correct these abuses and clear them up on these things. This passage is no exception to this and falls in this category. One will have little difficulty in discerning the difference in the tenor between the first and second Corinthian epistles. The first is full of reproofs, admonitions, etc., while the second has numbers of endearing, encouraging and commendatory statements because they had given heed to the admonitions of the first and cleared themselves. See II Corinthians 7:8-13.

Now to proceed with a discussion of the passage in question. First Corinthians 11:3

says, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God". This is a basic foundation verse because it establishes the chain of authority which is basic throughout this passage. The order is God, Christ, Man, Woman. But the relationship between the man and the woman in their order of authority needs to be qualified a little, I think. And the reason I do think this is found in verse 10 where it says a woman should have "Power on her head" and the margin here says "A covering in sign she is under the power of her husband". This makes it clear to me that the overall teaching in the Scriptures is in reference to the husband and his wife. I do not subscribe to the idea of the general inferiority of women as such, to men as such. I see that the only man my wife is to be subject to is myself. Oh, of course, I concede in this that a woman in a church congregation is to be subject to her pastor whether that pastor be a man or a woman; and the same with her boss if she is a working woman; and the same with magistrates and rulers. But in all such cases this woman is to be subject to this man, not as an inferior woman subjecting to a superior man but for the position that man holds. And those subjections are limited and qualified.

Then verse four enters into the realm of spiritual worship and religious service. This verse says if a man prays or prophesies with his head covered it dishonors his head. According to verse four, his head is Christ. There is clearly something dishonoring to Christ for a man to cover his head. Verse seven says he is the image and glory of God. He is to reflect that glory by having his head uncovered. Then verse five says that if a woman prays or prophesies with her head uncovered it dishonors her head. Her head is the man (her husband according to verse 10 with marginal reading.) Verses five and six state that for a woman to have her head uncovered is all the same as if she were shorn or shaven which would identify her with the lewd, immoral women which would dishonor her husband.

It was customary practice among these Gentile people from time immemorial for their women to wear veils for head covering when in public. Paul seems to be finding it necessary here to be doing some adjusting to their custom (to them who were without law, he became without law that he might gain them that are without law; and he became all things to all men that he might by all means save some—I Cor. 9:21-22) as he did on different occasions in order to gain them. And verses four and seven perhaps refer

to the covering of the head with veils. This was necessary under the circumstances because of the deep-rooted traditional practice of this among these people and they would be very reluctant to accept the gospel without this. However, Paul goes right ahead to set forth the gospel standard on this point. He says in verse 15, "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering (Margin: "vail"). Then it is evident here that the New Testament standard for New Testament saints is long hair which God has given her for her head covering (vail).

Verses 8 & 9 and 11 & 12 simply refer to the creation of the male and female and how the chain of authority was established. The man was created first; then the woman was taken from the man and brought to him for his wife. But ever since that first pair, every man of the race has been conceived in the womb of a woman and has come forth from her and the same is true of every woman. Neither men nor women could ever have been here except by the union of a man and a woman who were here before them so there is absolutely no room for boasting of either of them over the other.

Now returning to verse 10 a little. Verse nine says the woman was created for the man and verse ten says that because of this she should have power on her head (Margin: A covering is sign that she is under the power of her husband). Verse 15 declares this God-given covering to be the woman's long hair. And the standard for godly women in the Church of God in this New Testament age is declared to be long hair which they wear as a sign of subjection to their husbands which is another God-given requirement for godly women in this New Testament age.

The phrase "Because of the angels" in verse 10; I don't know if I can make any good commentary on that. I will give the best that occurs to me at this time. Hebrews 12:22 says that when we come to Mount Zion (the New Testament Church of God) we come "to an innumerable company of angels." Hebrews 1:14 says concerning the angels that they are all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation. The thought that is a thriller to me is that every time the saints meet together (whether many or few) there is always a generous number of angels present to minister to the needs of the saints who are there and they fly hither and yon distributing to the needs of every one there meeting their individual needs even though the message did not deal directly with that point. But this is not the only function of these ministering angels. They also

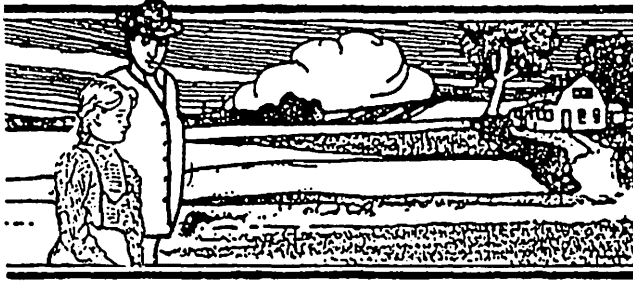
accompany us about wherever we go observing the needs of our individual lives and in the home and elsewhere observing that wife and mother and how she conducts herself, how she offers her life, how well she is measuring up to the truth and submitting to her husband, etc. Because of this the text says she needs the sign showing her submission to her husband. The angels are looking on everything and are able, ready and willing to help you and administer to any lack or need you have. It is the same with the husband, too, but this particular verse was referring to the wife so I trailed off on it that way.

One more point now—verse 16, "If any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God." There is a broad area of contention on this text which I consider to be so unnecessary. Moffit's translation says on the last part of this verse, "Well, I acknowledge no other mode of worship." And Goodspeed's translation says at this place, "I for my part recognize no other practice in worship than this." These two translations correspond well with the way I interpret verse 16 in my King James Bible. It is spelled out in black and white in the 15th verse that long hair is the woman's glory and it is given her as a covering for her head and according to verse 10 (margin) it is a sign that she is under the power of her husband. This is all plainly taught. Therefore, if a man is contentious against this he would be contending for short hair and the taking away the God-given sign of her subjection to her husband and we recognize no such custom in the Church of God. The standard held in the New Testament Church of God for all time then and now is long hair and submission to their husbands for all godly women.

Sharing a Load

Grant me the joy and laughter, Lord
and the countenance of a smile,
Let my heart be big and warm enough
to walk an extra mile,
With a lonely friend who is worn and tired,
and perhaps has lost his way,
And I shall count these gifts worthwhile,
at the closing of the day.
Grant me the understanding, Lord,
to keep my soul serene,
That I may share the strength of it,
when shadows intervene,
In the life of a friend whose courage lags,
as he walks the daily road,
For I should count it a blessing, Lord,
to share another's load. —Selected

HOME LIFE



One Sunday afternoon in autumn, I was going to visit a Sunday school, but though I was walking very quickly, a little girl came behind who seemed evidently determined to keep up with me. Without slackening my speed, I said—"Well, my girl, how far are you going?"

"I am going home, sir."

Sir! sir! thought I, some one has been at work with you, for every little girl does not say sir.

"How far have you been?" I asked.

"I have been with my father and mother to church, sir. We have had our dinner with our aunt, and Father and Mother are going to church again this afternoon, but they wished me to be at home when my little brother James and sister Elizabeth came from school."

"I suppose you attend the Sunday school?"

"Yes, sir; and as we were coming past a corn-field this morning, Mother looked at it and said she wondered that everybody did not love God for His goodness. The corn-field made me think of one of our hymns we had last Sunday."

"What was the hymn?"

"Why, it begins—

" 'Sing to the Lord, exalt Him high.'"

"And one verse says—

" 'He clothes the smiling fields with corn.' But Mother says she likes the last verse best."

I well knew the verse she referred to, but wishing to hear the child repeat it, said—"Well, and what is the last verse, that your mother likes?"

" 'But saints are lovely in His sight,
He views His children with delight;
He sees their hope, He knows their fear,
And looks and loves His image there.'"

That is the verse, sir. You know my mother is a saint."

"Your mother a saint, child! Why, how can you tell?"

"Well, sir, you know, my father works away from home, and only comes to us on the Saturday night. When he is at home, he reads the Bible and prays with us; but when he is away, my mother reads and prays with us. Every

night she goes with us up stairs, where we can be quiet, and we have each our own chair. Mother reads and talks to us out of the Bible that she has on a little table, and tells us what it means. Then we all kneel down, and she prays for Father, and then for me, and then for James and Elizabeth; and I always hearken what she says about me, for I feel so happy when she prays for me. Then she puts us all comfortable to bed, gives us a kiss, and says, 'God bless you, and make you good children.' Now, then, is not my mother a saint?"

"Well, my child, I think you are not far wrong, and I wish all children in the world had such mothers.

Taken from: "Strange Tales From Humble Life."

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Alma Mater

The oldest university

Was not on India's strand,
Nor in the valley of the Nile,
Nor on Arabia's sand;
From Time's beginning it has taught,
And still it teaches free,
Its learning, mild, to every child—
The school of Mother's Knee.

"The oldest school to teach the law
And teach it deeply, too,
Dividing what should not be done
From what each one should do,
Was not in Rome or Ispahan,
Nor by the Euxine Sea;
It held its way ere history's day—
The school of Mother's Knee.

The oldest seminary where
Theology was taught,
When love of God, and reverent prayer,
And the Eternal Ought
Were deep impressed on youthful hearts
In pure sincerity,
Came to the earth with Abel's birth—
The school of Mother's Knee."

The oldest—and the newest, too—

It still maintains its place
And from its classes, ever full,
It graduates the race,
Without its teaching, where would all
The best of living be?

'Twas planned by Heaven, this earth to leaven
The school of Mother's Knee.

—Priscilla Leonard

—————o—————
"If you would reform the world from its
vices, begin by enlisting the mothers."

—Charles Simmons

My Experiences With a Kleptomaniac

Who could have imagined that such a captivating character would turn out as he did?

I would never have dreamed he was a thief! Our acquaintance had all been so friendly and casual. It started one evening at my front door. It was a Tuesday in August. "An entertainer turned salesman," was his smiling approach to me. But I was not one to be taken off my guard so easily. I prodded him about his background. "Who are you with?" I asked. It came out that he had ties with several of the largest distilleries. He also had an account with a prosperous tobacco company. "At present," he continued, "I am an agent for a leading national magazine."

So I let him come into the living room and listened to him for a couple of hours. On learning of his connections, I took pains to tell him of my Christian faith and love for Christ.

"There is no place in my life for such things as liquor or tobacco," I told him deliberately. "As a Christian, my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit." I was sure these words would bother or affront him. But no, he was totally undisturbed by my convictions. He would hold his views, I could hold mine. This status quo was to mark all our subsequent discussions.

In a light-hearted moment he slipped off on an off-color story. I was quick to inform him that such things did not go in my home. In fact, I cut him off sharply.

As you may imagine, I had reservations on the truth of many of his stories. Still, I must admit his experiences often excited me. After having an interesting evening together I invited him to come back the following night. "I may have a helpful influence on him," was my naive hope.

It took my wife's words to remind me that his return visit would conflict with our church midweek prayer meeting. "I should attend," I confessed, "but I must stand by the invitation I have given this friend." I shared with her some of the things he had said to me. Well, to put it lightly, she was reluctant to accept him. "I just don't trust him," she would say. She grew steadily more concerned as he took up more and more of our family life.

My entire day was boring in comparison with my evenings with this character. He had an imagination that was captivating. I would sit and laugh myself sick at all his crazy experiences. There were other times that my hair would stand on end. His scrapes with the FBI and the law were absolutely breathtaking.

If his stories were true, he was also an

"extra" in motion pictures. But he couldn't talk about this without including sex. This forced me to cut him off time and time again.

Then he began to affect my teenage son Charles and my nine year old daughter, Eloise. They just couldn't wait to catch his latest quip or some hair-raising tale. They would have stayed up all hours if we had allowed it. All this distraction was hurting their studies and did their health little good. I began to worry about this fellow's presence in our home.

And then it came. The "straw that broke the camel's back." One day several of my best books turned up missing. I searched in vain for them. "This fellow may be something of a thief," I concluded. "If he is," I continued, "who can tell what else he's taken from us?"

It all looked very suspicious. The next day I was so wrought up about it that I decided to check on him next door. Sure enough, he had taken things there too. I was amazed by his subtle maneuvers. They certainly confirmed my wife's original point of view.

In one home he had entered as a religious teacher. "He has revealed the truth of our modern cults," they said. Another neighbor, a salesman down the block, knew him as an efficiency expert. "He's showing me the latest gimmicks," he called after me. "The sort of thing a successful salesman can put to use." He certainly has a lot of ways getting in, I concluded.

To all of these people I suggested a check of their belongings. Most of them found something missing. At one friend's home I noticed no more Christian magazines. In another the Bible had disappeared. I was surprised to hear that their Sunday and mid-week church service time was spent with this fellow. As I left this house the husband told me their family altar was missing too.

A few days later I met this fellow entertaining at a neighbor's. He paid scant attention to me and I was glad for it. I had come to talk with their teenage daughter about her faith in Christ. Well, this fellow monopolized the whole evening's conversation. He stole all serious thinking from her mind and heart. I was sick about it. Finally, I just had to say a word to the girl's mother about this lack of courtesy. "Oh," she exclaimed, "It's that way all the time." I found also that she had a five-year-old boy who was emotionally mal-adjusted from loss of sleep; all from this fellow's visits. I walked home deeply concerned about what I might do.

At long last I realized my visitor was afflicted with kleptomania. Like an inveterate thief, he had stolen my books, magazines and time. But the chief things missing were my close friend-

ship with Christ and the evenings spent in talking with my friends and family. I'm sure that others are having similar experiences.

Some have lost things of real value, not trifles, but precious family things they once enjoyed together. Spiritual, social and intellectual experiences have been taken from them, replaced by only a moment's crackpot amusement.

This fellow is not at our home now. Though, I notice that he is at my neighbor's. And he still keeps them laughing or excited hour after hour.

I would like to tell you his full name so that you will be alerted about him and his many subtle methods, but I am not sure now that he gave it. Yet I will never forget his initials, "T.V."

I wonder: what T.V. has robbed from you? Time? Devotions? Good reading? Wholesome conversation? Church attendance? Check your list—and see! You may be very surprised at what you'll find missing! —Don W. Hillis

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What Some Men Have Said About Cheerfulness

"What sunshine is to flowers, smiles are to humanity. They are but trifles, to be sure; but, scattered along life's pathway, the good they do is inconceivable." —Joseph Addison

"Wondrous is the strength of cheerfulness, and its power of endurance—the cheerful man will do more in the same time, will do it better, will persevere in it longer, than the sad or sullen." —Thomas Carlyle

"Cheerfulness is as natural to the heart of a man in strong health, as color to his cheek; and wherever there is habitual gloom, there must be either bad air, unwholesome food, improperly severe labor, or erring habits of life." —John Ruskin

"Get into the habit of looking for the silver lining of the cloud, and, when you have found it, continue to look at it, rather than at the leaden gray in the middle. It will help you over many hard places." —A. Willitts

"If good people would but make their goodness agreeable, and smile instead of frowning in their virtue, how many would they win to the good cause." —James Usher

"An ounce of cheerfulness is worth a pound of sadness to serve God with." —Fuller

"God is glorified, not by our groans but by our thanksgivings; and all good thought and good action claim a natural alliance with good cheer." —E. P. Whipple

"If I can put one touch of a rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, I shall feel that I

have worked with God." —George Macdonald

"Cheerfulness is a friend to grace; it puts the heart in tune to praise God and so honors religion by proclaiming to the world that we serve a good master. Be serious, yet cheerful. Rejoice in the Lord always." —Thomas Watson

"Be cheerful always. There is no path but will be easier traveled, no load but will be lighter, no shadow on heart and brain but will lift sooner for a person of determined cheerfulness." —A. Willitts

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Touching Others

The sense of touch is a very important one. We see from the Scripture that there is a time to touch and a time to refrain from touching.

In the very beginning of time when Adam and Eve were in the Garden, Eve said to the serpent, "God hath said . . . neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." This was a time to refrain from touching.

When Moses went up unto God on Mount Sinai the people were commanded, "Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it: whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: There shall not an hand touch it, . . ." Exodus 19:12, 13. This also was a time to refrain from touching.

There are several places in the Scripture where the people were to "touch not" or "touch no" for one purpose or another. There is a touch for evil and a touch for good.

When Jesus walked the shores of Galilee the people knew there was power in Him "And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole." Matthew 14:36. To touch Him was to be blessed.

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid his hands on them, . . ." Matthew 19:13, 14. Jesus knew how important His touch was, even to children.

We understand that a baby can fail to thrive due to the absence of the loving touch of the mother's hand. Many elderly fail in health, even though all their physical needs are met, because they are not touched by love and don't feel needed.

In Luke 8:43-48, we read of the woman who had spent all her living on physicians, desiring to be healed of an affliction she had twelve years. She came behind Jesus and touched just the border of His garment. She no doubt wanted

to remain hidden, possibly not feeling worthy, for in verse 47 it says, "when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately."

Jesus knew virtue had gone out of Him therefore He asked, "Who touched me?" After hearing her declaration He told her, "be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace."

This was her time to touch. She had a need that was not filled by the physicians so she reached out to Jesus. Jesus' fame had reached her and when she turned to Him, He did not fail her but His life touched hers so much that it changed her completely.

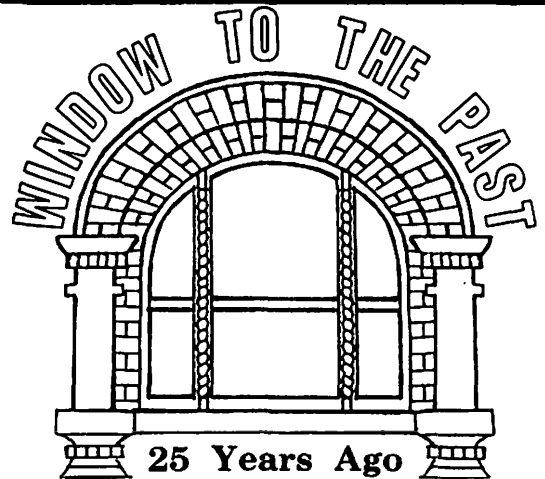
There are many today who are needing the special touch of Jesus in their lives. Some are hurting physically, others mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Isaiah 42:3, speaking of Jesus, states, "A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth." Those bruised by life's hardships are not to be broken. Jesus reached out in compassion to heal both the body and the spirit of men. He condemned the scribes and Pharisees, "For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers." Matt. 23:4. These were touching men's lives with an evil touch, causing hardship.

In Luke 11:46, Jesus said to the lawyers, "Woe unto you also, ye lawyers! for ye lade men with burdens grievous to be borne, and ye yourselves touch not the burdens with one of your fingers." These men were in positions to help the people but instead were hindering them and Jesus pronounced a woe upon them.

Our lives touch someone every day. We each have the privilege to use the life we have been given for good or evil. We can be a succourer as Phebe was (Romans 16:2), or we can bind burdens on men as did the scribes, the Pharisees and the lawyers.

Let us use our lives to be an avenue whereby Christ Jesus can touch men's lives to heal both body and soul.

If our thoughts or words would be a hindrance to others we must have the grace to refrain. If they will be of sustenance and help, may we have the boldness to administer it. May God grant us all the wisdom to know how and when to touch another's life. —W. D. Luehring



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"I was looking for a Scripture one night and my eyes noted this one in Exodus 14:14, 'The Lord shall fight for you and you shall hold your peace.' That was a full meal to my soul. I rejoiced greatly for this satisfying portion." —W. T. Tomlin

"Yesterday, Sunday, Oct. 22, we opened Sunday school in the new chapel in El Alamo with between 35 and 40 in attendance . . . Keen interest was manifested as the study in Matthew's gospel was begun. God blessed His Word as the message went forth on the wheat and the tares. (Matt. 13:24-30). It is hoped that the adobe house may soon be built to accommodate the children's class as well as providing a home for the workers."

—Bro. Harland H. Smith

"Every man or woman who will receive the gospel into his heart and become as clay in the hands of God will be loosed and freed from all sin and will be able to reign with Christ in this life. (Rom. 5:17; 6:12). Every soul who rejects the gospel will sin more or less while in this world and be bound for eternity's night." —Fred Pruitt

"If the people who profess to be Christians would live by this rule, [Golden Rule] there would be a great difference in the world today. It takes the love of God to put ourselves in another person's place and do for them as we would like them to do for us if we were in their condition. We find in the 4th chapter of 1 John much teaching on love. This writer gave instructions to love one another three or four times in this one chapter." —A Lone Pilgrim